



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

employed, with facilities for doing good work both for his employers and for science. Why may we not hope that other and various kinds of commercial enterprises may find it profitable to make use of the services of well trained botanists? The science is not likely to lose anything by it, and there are possibilities of considerable gain.

## CURRENT LITERATURE..

### Minor Notices.

EDUCATION for March contains an article by Prof. Conway MacMillan in which the evils of the common three-months course in botany are vigorously exposed, as they have been many times before, and will need to be many times more. The theme is an inexhaustible one and the remedy proposed will be as polymorphous as the writers are numerous. For example: in our judgment the remedy lies in the education of the teacher and not necessarily in the change of course.

BOOKS ON the diseases of plants are increasing. The third one in the English language has just been issued, and imitates its predecessors in form, size, and in its British origin. The work is by Dr. A. B. Griffiths,<sup>1</sup> and deals with the injuries to plants brought about by plant, animal and other agencies. A large number of plant affections are treated in a very brief manner, and in most instances a cure or preventive is given. Two drawbacks to the usefulness of the work are prominent: the inadequate accounts of the maladies, and the rather antiquated character of part of the information that is included. The author has made a praiseworthy attempt to provide (suggest does not seem to be the right word) remedies and preventives, but they are largely founded upon general principles, such as: destroy all infected plants, apply a solution of iron sulphate, topdress the land with gas-lime or quicklime. England is far behind the United States in the knowledge and use of specific remedies for plant ailments.

DR. ROLAND THAXTER has issued a supplementary note (Proc. Am. Acad. p. 261, presented Jan. 14, 1891) to his former paper on N. Am. *Laboulbeniaceæ*. The additions of a single season have been so unexpectedly large and important that it has been thought wise to defer the promised monograph. With the present additions, the species of

<sup>1</sup>GRIFFITHS, A. B.—The diseases of crops and their remedies: a handbook of economic biology for farmers and students. pp. 174. Illustrated. 12°. London: George Bell & Sons, 1890. 2s. 6d.

this family in North America already outnumber all the known exotic species. A remarkable new genus *Zodiomyces*, is described, and forms a distinct departure in the group. *Hesperomyces* is another new genus; while *Peyritschia* receives a new species, and *Laboulbenia* six.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the advance sheets and plate proofs of Ellis & Everhart's North American Pyrenomycetes. The illustrations are all original, the drawing having been the work of Mr. F. W. Anderson. There are 41 plates, each one accompanied by a page of explanatory text. We understand that 4 more plates will be issued as a supplement. In looking over the plates it is evident that the volume will be a boon to American mycologists, and that this large and rapidly increasing group of botanists will warmly welcome its appearance.

---

## OPEN LETTERS.

### Mounting plants.

THOSE WHO have had experience in mounting plants for the herbarium will readily understand why Prof. Beal should "decidedly favor" fastening down grasses with gummed strips, for of all things grasses are the most refractory subjects to glue down, and unless the work is expertly done and the stout culms immediately stayed by strips (without waiting for these to "spring up" before being "patched up,") there is likely to be displayed all the defects and drawbacks which our friend specifies. But it has occurred to me that notwithstanding Prof. Beal expressly restricts his remarks to the "mounting of grasses and allied plants" there might be some who would construe them into a qualified condemnation of the glue process from beginning to end. This, I take it, was not intended. Excepting the grasses there is not another large order of plants which the writer, for one, would not much prefer glued down; the Compositæ, Leguminosæ, Rosaceæ, Umbelliferæ and even the Cyperaceæ. A delicate *Astragalus* or *Vicia* can be neatly and expeditiously mounted so that every flower and leaflet in contact with the sheet will be securely fastened and that, too, without showing a particle of "surplus glue" to mar the perfection of the work; the same may be said of all the Umbelliferæ, but more especially of those with finely dissected leaves; while as for the Compositæ they are so easily glued down, held so firmly, look so well after the work is done, are so convenient to handle and easy to study, I can not conceive of two opinions being entertained as to the preferable mode of mounting them. Were the objection that specimens "not mounted right side out" can not be turned over, really as formidable as it appears in the statement it would have long ago led to the abandonment of gluing down. As a matter of fact I do not recall, in thirty years' experience, having ever been balked by a specimen mounted wrong-side up. Nor does gluing prevent the detachment of small fragments for more careful examination with the aid of those capital help-